

269 S. Cosmo Place  
Star, ID 83669  
November 23, 2013

Federal Lands Interim Committee  
Legislative Services Office  
Research and Legislation  
P.O. Box 83270  
Boise, ID 83720-0054

Honorable Senators Chuck Winder and Lawrence Denney

RE: HCR 21

Federal Lands Interim Committee:

I'm writing to comment on HCR-21 related to the question of the State of Idaho pursuing "ownership" of public lands currently administered by various agencies of the Federal Government. I believe these lands are not "owned" by any government agency. These lands belong to all the citizens of the United States and are managed by the relevant agencies for the benefit of everyone. I am concerned that it would be unwise for the State of Idaho to acquire "ownership" of these lands because of the distinct possibility that they would then be sold to the highest bidder.

I have lived in Idaho for most of my 63 years, and I have always appreciated the special stewardship of land in Idaho that I believe comes from open access to 33 million acres that are close and available to everyone. I have lived in Oregon which has a comparatively smaller percentage of public land, and I am accustomed to seeing billboards along highways with messages like, "No Trespassing Either Side of The Highway Next Thirty Miles." I am afraid that if public "ownership" of these great lands in Idaho was to be somehow transferred to the State, that the end result would be that the people would be restricted access.

Public lands more than anything represent our freedom as American citizens. I respectfully urge you to help us keep it that way.

Sincerely and regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David R. Starr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David R. Starr